

CONSECRATION OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, COVENTRY.—The first stone of this edifice was laid by the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, rector of St. John Baptist's parish, on the 2nd of March, 1848. There are kneelings for 576 persons, of which 456 are free and unappropriated. The total cost has been 3,350*l.* It was consecrated a few days ago. It was designed by Messrs. Sharpe and Paley, and built by Mr. Taylor, of Coventry. It is in the Early Decorated style, and consists of nave, north and south aisles, north porch, chancel, and vestry. The exterior of the church is incomplete, from the absence of a tower and spire, an addition which is intended to be given to it as soon as funds can be raised for the purpose. Its outline, however, is broken at the west end by a bell-turret, which goes far to supply the deficiency. The clerestory windows of the nave are spherical triangles filled with tracery. The church is built of red sandstone, from a quarry of Lord Leigh's, on the Kenilworth road. The aisles are separated from the nave by piers and pointed arches. The roofs are open, and the seats are all low and open. The corbels supporting the wall-pieces of the nave roof are angels bearing shields, on which are depicted in colour the apostolic emblems. Above the western door is a sculptured group of three angels, of whom the centre one bears a legend inscribed in illuminated letters—"Go, and sin no more." The pulpit, on the south side of the chancel arch, is approached from the vestry, and is a simple platform of stone, with a brass railing. The reading-pew faces south and west.

MR. SHEEPSHANKS' COLLECTION OF PICTURES.—One would suppose, if anything could call the Government to a sense of the duty they owe to the late Mr. Vernon for his munificent gift to the nation,—it is the *on dit* that "Mr. Sheepshanks has expressed his intention of presenting to the University of Oxford his valuable collection of pictures, by artists of the British school, from an impression that his gift will meet with greater care and attention from the University than if consigned, like Mr. Vernon's, to the cellars of the National Gallery." It is to be hoped, if the above be the fact, that Oxford will set a good example, by erecting an appropriate gallery for the reception of such a collection. That they need a gallery of pictures is very evident, for nothing can be more wretched than those exhibited at the Randolph and Taylor Building.

SINKS, DRAINS, AND CESSPOOLS should be deodorized as far as possible with chloride of lime, which, it is recommended, should be used simultaneously throughout a district, say between 9 and 10 A.M. on Saturdays, especially during the prevalence of cholera. Two ounces are sufficient to stir into a pailful of water, and ought to cost no more than 1*d.*

THE SCULPTURE ON BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—Sir: In the centre of the new façade of her Majesty's Palace at Piccadilly there must be, I presume, a gateway. Over this, then, and at the summit of the building, is an arch, flanked on one side by the figure of Britannia, reposing gracefully on a lion couchant; on the other by our patron saint, who has, unfortunately, failed in his attempt to transfix the dragon, which, in return, is about to make a vigorous snap at him. The piers of the arch are faced by two female figures,—one, probably a beggar-woman cuddling a baby. So far is tolerably clear; but what is the central superincumbent mass intended to represent? I can trace at its base some leaves, at the top a wreath hung upon a peg, and on the face the initials of our gracious Sovereign, and the date; but can guess no further. Pray, Mr. Editor, be kind enough to enlighten the ignorance of—*Ms.*

"* There is little further explanation to be given. 'Story? I have none, Sir.' The composition is certainly an odd one. It consists of a shield, in shape very much like a pair of fashionable stays, with the addition of a peak at the top, resting on two coarsely-executed palm branches, and bedizened with flowers. The face of it displays the initials V. R., and the whole is surmounted by a large wreath, stuck most ungracefully on the aforesaid peak. This wreath projects so far forward that to the spectator who is ignorant as to how it may be held up behind, it seems about to fall. It is to be hoped that it will.

EXTRAS ON SPECIFICATION WORK.—A case was lately tried before Mr. Baron Rolfe and a common jury, in which a builder, being indebted a sum of 116*l.* to a party who proposed to take repayment in repairs to his house, entered into a written specification with the party to do the work for 175*l.*, but on the ground of extra work demanded in all 230*l.* Only 70*l.* beyond the debt of 116*l.* having been paid, however, the builder brought his action for the balance, but was nonsuited on exhibiting a specification sworn by his own witness not to be the one entered into and signed. Thereupon the successful party raised an action for repayment of the sum paid beyond the original amount specified, with costs, and a verdict was granted accordingly; so that, in place of his extras, the builder will have to refund the overplus, and pay all costs, of themselves not less than 400*l.*

THE ROMAN TESSELLATED PAVEMENT AT CIRENCESTER.—We learn from the *Gloucestershire Chronicle* that workmen, under the instruction of a member of the Archaeological Institute, have been all the week busily employed in removing this interesting relic into a place of safety. The pavement is now placed on the lawn in front of Earl Bathurst's mansion, where it is protected by a marquee, until an appropriate place can be fixed upon for its final destination. On its removal it was found to be supported by a hard concrete resting on pillars, also of concrete, surmounted by layers either of brick or tile, which rested on a floor about a foot and a half beneath. At the western corner were found the remains of what appeared to have been a stove, which supplied hot air to the apartment above by means of funnel-shaped pipes made of clay, parts of which still remained. There was also a low wall, the same height as the pillar, acting as an additional support to the floor, running along each side of the room, which, on being removed, showed marks of painting, in various devices, on the plastered sides of the apartment. As these devices were continued to the lower floor, which was of very common materials, it is imagined that the original building having fallen to decay, another had been erected upon the site, of superior character, at a higher elevation.

THE CARYATIDES OF ST. PANCRA'S CHURCH, LONDON.—Two countrymen, observing the female figures with pitchers in their hands, which support the porticoes of St. Pancras Church, wondered what they represented. "They must be the *foolish virgins*," said one. "They can't be, neither," replied the other, "there's only four of 'em." "Oh, it's all right," replied the friend; "the other is gone for the oil," you may depend on't.

GREAT YARMOUTH CHURCH.—By restoration of Yarmouth Church, already accomplished, additional accommodation has been provided for 1,100 persons, the whole area of the church seating 2,900 persons. Previous to the alteration, the poor were virtually excluded. Ever since the opening there has been a full and attentive congregation, evidently thankful for the increased accommodation. But even now, urgent applications for as many as 300 sittings have been received by the churchwardens, from persons who request to be seated in their parish church, and efforts are therefore being made to raise money for completing the restoration. The cost at which the new arrangements have been accomplished is 4,446*l.*;* the committee with difficulty have raised 4,196*l.*, by which a debt of 250*l.* now remains to be discharged; and to complete the restoration, 2,000*l.* more is required: in all 2,250*l.* Schools are also much needed. It is proposed to erect two, to contain 500 children each. An excellent site for one has been given by the corporation at the south end of the town; and the Dean and Chapter of Norwich have offered the ancient priory, part of which is now a stable, adjacent to the parish church, which it is now proposed to restore for the other school at the north end of the town. The cost of these two schools will not be less than 2,500*l.*, towards which 1,000*l.* may be expected from public sources, leaving 1,500*l.* to raise. Mr. C. J. Palmer, of Yarmouth, is acting as honorary secretary.

* This sum does not include the cost of a memorial window, which has been planned at the east end of the north aisle, in memory of the late Sarah Martin, so well known for her successful exertions in promoting the spiritual improvement of prisoners in Yarmouth Gaol.

RATING PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN IRELAND UNDER THE POOR-LAW.—The *Cork Constitution* has the following announcement:—"The different public buildings in the Cork Union, such as the Custom-house, military and police barracks, &c., which have been heretofore exempt from poor-rate, are now being included in the rate about to be struck, and half poor-rate will be charged the lessee on the amount of the rent. The amount of property thus made liable by a late Act of Parliament will exceed a total of 4,000*l.*,—a sum which will assist considerably in lightening the pressure of taxation on the ratepayers of the union."

NEW ROTARY ENGINE.—A working mechanic of the name of Scotchorn has invented some alleged improvements in rotary engines. His machine mainly consists, according to *Aris's Gazette*, of a metallic case containing a cylindrical chamber, with a segment at each side, as if cut off, to open into lesser cylindrical abutment chambers, all on one axial plane. On the main shaft is set centrally a hollow cylinder or drum in the main chamber, which being of larger diameter, has a vacancy between the cylinder and the case called the steam compartment. From the drum projects a sort of piston, with steam-tight joint. The working, however, cannot well be described within our limits, more especially without diagrams. The efficient working force is said to be quadruple that of crank engines.

THE CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION met at Cardiff last week: the attendance of members was not so numerous as had been hoped. The Marquis of Northampton, Professor Petrie, of Dublin, and several other Irish antiquaries, were present. Amongst the chief papers read was one, by the Dean of Llandaff, on Llandaff Cathedral, which structure was visited. Excursions were also made to Caerphilly Castle, Caerleon, &c. A collection of local antiquities forming a nucleus for a museum, excited much interest.

MR. WARD'S PORTRAIT ENGRAVINGS.—Mr. George Raphael Ward has lately produced a very effective and truthful engraving in mezzotint, after Mr. F. Grant's painting of the *Rajah of Sarawak*, Sir James Brooke. A short time previously the same engraver produced an excellent likeness of Mr. Henry Dover, of Norfolk, the chairman of the sessions. Both these engravings are carefully and ably executed, and must tend to advance Mr. Ward in public opinion as a mezzotint engraver.

FOLKESTONE.—A Tontine Building Company has been provisionally registered, for the erection of eighty houses in Folkestone. In consequence of the increasing communication between this country and the continent, the town of Folkestone is rapidly advancing in size and importance, and will soon become a considerable seaport, and from its acknowledged salubrity, a fashionable resort for visitors. There is said to be a great demand for houses, with shops of the better class; and it is the object of this Company to meet the wants of the inhabitants and visitors, by building a street of shops of a superior description.

IN THE NEW ASSESSMENT OF BETHNAL-GREEN the Eastern Counties Railway Company's assessment has been increased from 4,300*l.* to between 7,000*l.* and 8,000*l.*; the East London Waterworks Company's from 600*l.* to 1,700*l.*, while the Regent's Canal Company's has been reduced, their private act not permitting rates for tolls or improvements. Numerous appeals have been made against the increased rates.

CHURCH DECORATION.—The nave of Wigmore Church, Hereford, displays two instances of taste worth mentioning. The oak pews are whitewashed, and to the north wall is affixed the strangest mural monument we ever saw. It is no less than the ornamental (!) plate of a coffin-lid, inscribed to the memory of a certain "Martha Millichap."

MODEL OF SUSPENSION-BRIDGE OVER THE DNEPR.—We ought to have said that this bridge was designed, and is in the course of erection by Mr. C. Vignoles, C.E.

SUSPENDING SASHES, &c.—A patent for improved apparatus is advertised in our columns to be sold by auction on the 19th inst. If it can effect all that the patentees assert, it is worth attention.